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"ALDERNEY BRAND" CONDENSED MILK. Cold feet cured by "Suttonia" magnetic insoles. "Suttonia" magnetic garments are cheaper and than "Wilsonia." 5 Waverley-place.

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# New-Pork Daily Eribunc.

FOUNDED BY HORACE GREELEY.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1881,

### TWELVE PAGES.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.-The London cable dispatch to THE TRIBUNE says that the British press continues to show irritation at the tone of Mr. Braine's dispatch. The failure of the Irish landlords' meeting is due to the hostility of the Conservative press, which wishes to leave the question of compensation to landlords open till the meeting of Parliament, Some professional jealousy is manifested in London at the success of Mrs. Langtry on the stage. - Oscar Wilde sailed yesterday from Liverpool for this port. The Pope spoke on his own position to the Cardinals yesterday. - Mr. O'Donovan has been sentenced to six months' imprisonment for speaking in abusive terms of the Sultan. = In Dublin, yesterday, Whelan and Ryan were remanded until Wednesday on the charge of having arms in a proclaimed district. - The steamship Braunschweig has sunk in the port of Bremen.

Domestic.-The four experts examined in the Guiteau trial yesterday expressed the conviction that the prisoner was sane on the 2d of July; Judge Cox has under consideration a motion to the prisoner in the dock. == The Rev. Dr. Leonard Bacon died at New Haven yesterday, - The new Minnesota adjustment bonds have been signed and scaled. McFarland, the Molly Maguire, has been declared not guilty. = Charles L. Strong, the vender of the Solareraph watch, is in jail at Buffalo. - A Western college base ball club has been forme Secretary Lincoln is in Chicago, ---- The rifle tournament at Atlanta has closed. - The loss by the Red Bank, N. J., fire is now estimated at about \$50,000. == The Grand Central Variety Theatre at Troy, N. Y., has been burned. ..... Dr. Patterson, of St. Paul, has committed suicide in a

CITY AND SUBURBAN. - A fire in a bonded warehouse in Maiden-lane last night caused a loss of a million. The loss at a Broadway fire was over \$250,000. = Tammany Hall issued another address. == The Dock Department investigation was continued yesterday. === The method which W. A. Hall embezzled money in Newark was discovered. \_\_\_\_ The second mate of the ship David Crockett was arrested, charged with eruelty to the ship's crew, === Gold value of the legal-tendersilver dollar (41212 graius), 86.77 cents. = Stocks opened steady, declined, ral-Tied, and later again declined, and closed weak.

THE WEATHER .- TRIBUNE local observations indicate warmer and clear or fair weather. Thermometer yesterday: Highest, 33°; lowest, 22°; aver-

London had one of the densest fogs of the season and New-York perfect winter weather on the day before Christmas. All the signs of sky and instruments promise sunshine and an invigorating atmosphere to-day.

Guitean has whittled down his insanity pleato a fine edge. He admits that the experts are entirely correct when they pronounce him cane at the present time, and that he recovered his sanity an hour after he assassinated the President. As soon as he got the "inspiration" off the "insane spirit" left him. While the "inspiration" was "on" he was utterly irresponsible. When the skein has been unravelled until there is only one gossamer thread left there is little chance of the jury's making a tangle of it.

Mr. Blaine's reference to the military power of the United States, as evinced in the civil war, is met in England by the quiet and unassuming reminder that the Queen rules one-half of America. Population has nothing to do with it. It is a territorial claim, based on the assumption that everything is British from the St. Lawrence clear up to the North Pole and a good deal more on the other side. If England did not have an established reputation for unassuming worth this would really look hke "spread-engleism."

The British Ministry is now receiving aid from an unexpected quarter. Mr. Shaw's withdrawal from the Home Rule League is announced in a manifesto in which reforms and industrial prosperity, rather than separation, are pronounced the true remedy for Irish grievances. Our regular London correspondent quotes him as saying that the Land Act, in able for the kind of werk needed, have passed the opinion of the immense majority of the irish people, has settled the land question. As the popular london correspondent of the opinion of the immense majority of the irish people, has settled the land question. As the popular london correspondent of the opinion of the immense majority of the irish people, has settled the land question. As the popular london correspondent of the popular london correspondent of the opinion of the immense majority of the irish people, has settled the land question. As sale to port on their patronage so desirable that any not to be looked upon as a secession from their patronage so desirable that any sale of the opinion of the expresses the land of the popular london correspondent of the popular london correspondent of the popular london correspondent in the liter, which have been exceptionally favorable to turn aside to port on their way for succer and repairs a skilled not the liter of the thing of a sensation to the dider to many the liter of the popular london correspondent in the city itself at turn aside to port on their way for succer and repairs. Such is a resume of what the popular london correspondent in the city itself at turn aside to port on their way for succer and repairs. Such is a resume of what the popular london the liter of the thing of the commissioners may have considered and state the popular london the liter of the many them the liter of the many the liter of the popular london the liter of the popular london the long of the popular london the liter of the many for the case of the large of t grievances. Our regular London correspondent

in Mr. Gladstone or in the efficacy of reform

Lieutenant Schwatka thinks that the tendency of such disasters as the loss of the Jeannette will be in the direction of aerial navigation as a more hazardous but more effectual method of reaching the North Pole. He overlooks the obvious advantages of a systematic advance along a well-defined coast line from such a base of operations as Lady Franklin Bay. The American colony landed there this summer has an excellent opportunity for pushing ahead and following the Greenland shore beyond the farthest point colony, with sub-stations on a coast line trending northward, can be regularly provisioned from year to year, and by systematic effort explorations can be extended to higher and yet higher latitudes without the risks of wintering in the pack and a "nip" when the ice begins to move. Another advantage of this plan is the avoidance of relief expeditions. The sledging or boating parties can always retreat upon their own base of supplies, and the Government is never at a loss as to the quarter in which the explorers are to be found.

One of the fathers of American Congregationalism has passed away, after a long, laborious and honorable life. Dr. Leonard Bacon was neither a great preacher nor a subtle theologian, but be was a man of real force and decided individuality, who not only had much to do with shaping the course of his own decomination, but who also succeeded in directing the currents of public thought on many important questions. A born controversialist, he was always mindful of Paul's warning against "striving about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers." He loved an argument, not for the pleasure of displaying his dialectic skill, which was by no means small, but because he was thoroughly in earnest in what he believed and thought and regarded it as a conscientious duty to argue his case with the heat and vigor of genuine conviction. He was ranked as a conservative in his views of Congregational polity and college government, and he had an antiquarian taste which predisposed him to habits of special research; but he always kept abreast of the time, and was often considerably in advance of it. He was genial in manner, and had a grim sort of humor that made his letters and controversial articles interesting to a wider public than a denominational preacher usually commands. Finally, and above all else, he was genuine in life and speech.

A talk with ex-Governor Leland Stanford, of California, which we print on another page, will be found timely and interesting reading Mr. Stanford thinks the Southern Pacific Railroad is going to be a great benefit to California, in opening a short line for the shipment of her wheat to Europe by way of New-Orleans, and in developing a market for her agricultural products in the mining regions of Arizona. He does not regard the Southern as a rival to the Central and says its local traffic will support it apart from the bulky freight which will seek water carriage at New-Orleans, and which now goes around Cape Hern because it cannot afford the long rail journey to New-York. A great increase in the agricultural industry of the Pacific Coast is predicted as one of the results of the new road. It is remarkable that, with the great fertility of her soil and the beauty of her climate, the State has only 100,000 inhabitants engaged in tilling the land. Scarcity of labor is said to be the cause, and this is no doubt due in great part to the distance from the East and the ex pense of the journey. Governor Stanford rightly thinks that a second Pacific ratiroad terminating in California will prove a great stimulus to the settlement of her agricultural

There are two favorable symptoms in the Guiteau case. One is the fact that the audience has thinned out, and the other is the distinct demand from the prosecution that the murderer shall be heard from his own placethe criminal's dock. Ex-Judge Porter, whose righteous indignation flamed out at various stages of yesterday's proceedings, finally offered a motion to the effect that the prisoner should be conducted to the dock. That genial optimist, Judge Cox, cautiously remarked that he had the matter under consideration, but did not wish to act hastily. Hastily, indeed! As if the license allowed this most contemptible and atrocious of murderers had not been a reproach to our criminal practice week after week; as if Americans were not hanging their heads at home and abroad, because this Judge, with a tissue-paper backbone, has not sufficient force of character to preserve order in his Court! Ex-Judge Porter's direct appeal to the bench merely called out another admonition. The effect, as usual, was to stimulate the prisoner's blackguardism, for almost in the next breath he referred to Mr. Corkhill as "a first-class fraud," and not long afterward congratulated ex-Judge Porter on having "a mouth like an old catfish." The report of the day's proceedings shows that the counsel for the prosecution do not intend to submit any longer to interruptions and insults from this foul-mouthed assassin. The Judge is fooling with the patience of the public. He should put the prisoner in the dock and keep him there.

THE PARK BOARD STILL TRIFLING. In a paper which Mr. Commissioner Smith E. Lane has been moved to indite, occurs the following statement: "We have a super-"intending architect, Mr. Calvert Vaux, who "desires to supervise the work with a deputy "to be selected by him and paid for by "the Department." The truth is, however, that the Park Department has no superintending architect. Nearly six weeks ago the Park Commission, during a brief paroxysm of common sense, did, against the opposition of Mr. Lane, appoint Mr. Vaux, and that gentleman, as was his duty, appeared promptly at the office of the Park Board and stated the conditions on which he would accept the position. The Commissioners not having seen fit to pay any heed to the informal notification made to them, Mr. Vaux, after courteously waiting a reasonable time, addressed to the Board the same terms which he had offered to individual members. But as yet no action has been taken. As a result the Park remains without a superintending architect, and the autumn and early winter, which have been exceptionally favor-

is not demanding an extra \$2,000 or \$3,000 or sixty miles an hour is a common per year for anyone. It is not thrusting for- rate of speed for them; hence, before the ward an unknown or untried man. the contrary, it is securing for the Park known the course and progress of a storm, it most argently needs, and that is treatment by the highest professional skill. The laws of nature must be as distinctly recognized in the maintenance of the Park as the laws of art. Artistic results cannot be hoped for without scientific cultivation. The Park developed at once into a thing of beauty because a man with the skill of Ignaz Pilat planted to the design of Messrs, Olmstead and Vaux. The artist seen by Sir George Nares. Such a feels by intuition what the eye is longing for, but the design can only be brought out as an actual and visible result by a planter who has the taste to appreciate its full significance and a practical knowledge of all the materials to be used-of trees and shrubs, and of all the inflaences which are to control their growth under the special circumstances. These are fundamental traths which must be recognized, and it is illogical to thrust them out of view when any questions concerning park maintenance are under discussion.

The problem of maintaining the Park, now that it has fallen into neglect and incipient decay, is a complicated one, and only a courareous man would honestly undertake the task. The professional integrity of Mr. Vaux is such that the fact of his conditional acceptance of the post is proof that he is confident of his ability to restore the pleasure ground if he can be allowed to work in his own way. He has explained to the Commissioners what that way is, and it looks like a reasonable way. The office of superintending architect, as defined by law, gives him control of and makes him responsible for the design and maintenance of the Park. In performing his important duties he cannot intrust the details of his work to any unknown gardener, so-called, and it is to his eredit as an artist that he has at hand a man upon whom he can rely for technical support and whose skill is universally recognized. One would think that the Commissioners, if they are sincere, would eagerly seize the opportunity to secure so much combined and skill and experience at such a eidiculously inadequate salary. All the more is this true because, in addition to securing good men now, a good system would be inaugurated which would have a satisfactory future, because inder it natural results would be reached in a

natural way. Now, the Park Board may have some sufficient reason for this dallying, and if so the people of the city want to know what it is, The appointment of Mr. Vaux was so satisactory that there followed at once a full in the storm of popular disapproval which seed not flatter themselves, however, that it sn't going to be much of a shower. Something nust be done at once. If they propose to reject the proposition of Mr. Vaux let them do so and tell the city why they do it, and then propose something better if they can.

The ocean storms of November and Decemer were terriffe. We do not remember when uch a succession of burgicanes and tempests has been reported. If the vessels of Columhus had encountered such weather the discovery of America would have been indefinitely postponed. The average ships of even a gen eration or two ago would have sunk under such distress. The superior size and strength of modern steamships saved most of those vessels reporting severe suffering and heavy losses would fill a column. The City of London seems to have been delayed indefinitely. The Bath City is reported to have foundered; she sprang aleak in stormy weather off New- ingness to make the facilities offered by the foundland November 17, lost her rudder Chief Signal Officer their medium of exchange. afterward, and labored in the seas un- It is evident that no better means can be had, ril December 13, when the captain and crew took to two boats. The captain in its power to increase the accuracy and and nine seamen are known to have been efficiency of any work that affects the results to drowned or to have died of exposure. Seven- be attained by the service. The Signal Service teen men in one of the boats were rescued by | has the use of telegraph lines extending to all the bark Foley and carried back to Liverpool. parts of the country, for the purpose of trans-The Canada met the bark. Anna in distress in mitting messages at stated times daily. It also a hurricane, her captain called for volunteers holds most friendly relations with the different to attempt a rescue, and the crew and officers observatories, nearly all of them furnishing of the Anna (dog and all) were safely brought | meteorological data for its use. This cooperaaboard the Canada, but the life-boat was tion of the observatories would undoubtedly do swamped in endeavoring to hoist it in. One more than any other step that could be taken or two of the men were washed overboard, or toward effecting an agreement in regard to the erashed or beaten to death by the violence of introduction of a common standard of timethe waves, from the Aragon, also from the There are now in use by different milroad com-City of New-York, the Coptic, the Hilbernian, panies at least seventy distinct standards of the Malta, the Neckar, the Switzerland and time. The work that is being done by the the Lake Winnipeg; the Scotland lost her captain and a seaman; and dangerous injuries were sustained by men of the Arizona, Labrador, Pollux, Somerset, Waesland and Wisconsin. The boatswain of the Gladiolus had a narrow escape; a wave swept over the main deck and bore him away struggling in the water. No assistance was possible in the Peirce the idea of establishing time meridians storm; but, at the mement, the ship gave a heavy roll, dipping her port bulwarks under water, and a counter wave washed the man seconds, differing only for the hours, in differback and flung him on board, giving him a chance to cling to the rigging. He doubtedly be adopted. calls the account square. Passengers died of exposure, of fear, or of disease aggravated by the weather, on the Arizona, Celtic, Labrador and Poliux; but an item must be put to the prominent being that at Boston. This is in the credit side for the Arizona, on board which a haby was frightened into being born prematurely! The waves which swept the decks of the Anchoria, Arizona, Celtic, Coptic, Labrador, Marathon, Missouri, Neckar, Pollux, Somerset, Waesland and Winnipeg carried away boats, wheelhouses, cabooses, skylights, dairways, doors, nay everything movable and deluged cabin and steerage; and the Missouri lost overboard 140 head of cattle. The Allemania and the Waesland broke their shafts, and the British King lost two blades of her fan. The new mammoth steamship Servia made her voyage in nine days and twelve hours, suffering little and exhibiting excellent sea qualities. Two or even three weeks' time was consumed in the trips, be tween our coast and Europe, of the Australia Belgenland, Berlin, Brooklyn City, Celtic, Circassia, City of Montreal, Egypt, Egyptian Monarch, General Werder, Holland, Lake Champlain, Lake Manitoba, Marengo, Oder, Parthia, Persian Monarch, Pieter Coninck and St. Laurent, and they all suffered serious inconvenience and grave balls should be crected in as many cities as posperil though they accomplished their voyages without loss of life or positive disaster. The Daniel Steinman, Gellert, Lessing, Ohio, State of Georgia, Suevia and Vandalia were com- the different observatories,

ent of planting be officially recognized. This general cause has also been investigated. Fifty On days of telegraphing, even if observers had what Mr. Lane has just discovered they could not have foretold it to inhabitants of the region about to be visited, for storms travel twice as fast as ordinary mail trains. But the telegraph has rendered Signal Service observations practicable. At chosen posts all over the continent observers note the force and direction of the wind, the height of the barometer (the barometer is always low in a storm-centre), and other weather indications. These enable the Bureau to predict pretty accurately the course and severity of the impending hurricane or cyclone. The laws which govern the movement of a storm after it reaches the eastern coast and moves forth over the Atlantic are not well understood, for want of scientific observations; the log-books and Let us all agree to join for once in this general fact that a storm-centre formed in it can be kept. "Keeping Christmas, the far West has been observed to move speed, and in a definite curve, affords means sense of affection and happiness. But suppose of judging as to its subsequent force and effects; and renders it possible to send word to-day for the little ones; suppose our hardest other side, warning them where they may expect to meet it. Sanguine scientists say that the system of observations might, by sufficient expense and labor, be extended to ocean stations. Theoretically it would be possible to anchor vessels or floats, to be occupied by observers. at chosen places, and to connect each with the maialand by an ocean cable; on which system weather reports might be received from the sea like those now gathered from the land. Practical difficulties have hitherto forbidden essaying anything like this.

#### STANDARD TIME.

The question of standard time has been for perhaps forty years growing in importance From the period when chronometer-makers were in the habit of taking their chronometers to the nearest observatory, to compare them with the standard clock of the institution, to the present time, when in all the large cities iewellers receive very accurate time signals by telegraph automatically from the observatory clock, many plans have been proposed for increasing the usefulness and accuracy of the time thus disseminated. Of course, the first point of importance is to have the clock sending the signals accurately regulated. It is clear that on account of cloudy weather and irregularities in the running of timepieces, it is unwise to depend on the signals from any one and been beating upon them so fiercely. They observatory. This feeling is entertained by all astronomers. The only remedy for this difficulty is in the interchange of time signals be tween observatories separated by such distances as will generally insure clear weather for observing the stars at jut least one of the observing points. Heretofore this exchange of time has been deemed impracticable on account of the great expense that would be incurred by the individual institutions.

> the observatories now distributing time ought to cooperate in this matter. Their joint endeavors will, however, need the assistance of various scientific bodies, both at home and abroad, in relation to the establishment of a uniform system of time-reckoning, should meet with the encouragement of all who are in any comparatively recent number of The North American Review ascribes to the late Professor one hour apart, so that all timepieces would indicate the same number of minutes and ent longitudes. This division of time will un-

A time signal of quite recent invention is the time ball, of which there are at present about a dozen in operation in this country, the most immediate charge of the Signal Service observer in that city. There is now in process of construction a ball of similar magnitude, to be placed in New-York and to be operated by the Signal Service officer at this station. This ball is to be dropped on Greenwich time, and will prove of great benefit to the mariner, as it will fall at the beginning of each hour for five or six consecutive hours daily, thus enabling him to rate his chronometer in a much shorter period of time than is ordinarily required. A sill was recently introduced in Congress by Mr. King, of Louisiana, to appropriate the sum of \$25,000 " to provide for the placing of time halls on the respective Custom Houses or such other public buildings as are most suitable at all ports of entry, and at all cities having a population of not less than fifteen thousand. and to provide for the expense of transmitting daily by telegraph the meridian time of the Naval Observatory at Washington, Distriet of Columbia, to said cities." money is to be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Navy. Undoubtedly time sible; but it does not seem advisable that they observatory, but from the combined signals of

HE THAT HAS COME. The world rises this morning thinking with one brain and feeling with one heart more than on any other day of the year. There is not a home, perhaps, in any civilized country through which a glad, unusual stir is not now passing of good cheer and kindliness and joy. We are each of as apt to feel as if Christmas were confined to our own little circle. We forget that in every city and hamlet, in the negro's hat and the royal palace, in the lonely farm-house on Russian steppes, in the ship stranded among Arctic ice, in burning Australia and far-off Japan, this, His birthday, is kept. Chiming bells and rejoicing music, children's laughter and the warming of old hearts and softening of old faces follow each other with an electric thrill of joy about the round globe. vague reports brought by vessels that have holy day heartily, to find out its real come through a storm are the only materials meaning, and then to keep Christmas in for study, and these are inadequate. But the the highest, royalest fashion in which with a good many of us, means a tree or bonsteadily across the continent and pass down bons or turkey, or a gift apiece for some two the valley of the St. Lawrence to the coast or three people dear to us. Behind even these and thence out to sea, at a steady rate of flimsy tokens, however, there is the quickened we have no money to buy a turkey or a tree by cable to vessels about to start from the drudgery only suffices to keep wife and children the year round from want, and that into our bare, pinched home not the poorest gift or feeblest glimmer of merry-making can come this hallowed morning-how can we keep Christmas? How? Why, when a dear friend long hoped for comes to visit us, or a father or brother long absent comes home at last, if we are able to provide no feast to welcome them, or have no rich clothes to wear in which to do them honor, are we less glad to meet them at the door? Signs of love and welcome are pretty and pleasant things; it is right and proper to provide the plentiful meal or wear our best garments when the one who is dearest to us comes back; but when his eyes look into ours, and his hand clasps our own, what do we care for food or clothes? He has come! If our hearts give that cry to-day, and understand all that it means, the rest matters little. The bare house will put on the splendor of a King's home, and a crust will become the bread of heaven.

Who is it that has come to whom we should give such welcome? Some wise old man long ago said, "The surest test of a man's character is the face which we put on when we go to meet him." When a rathless enemy invades country he is met by a wild alarum of fear; hate, rage, revenge, every other ill and un-seemly pussion, is kindled in men's hearts at the rumor of his approach. But when a country or city is stirred with universal glad-ness at the advent of a ruler, when women throw open their homes and children unbidden bring flowers to cast in his way, we are sure that he is a beneficent and good man. There has been but one human being since time began for whose coming all the world, year after year, rejoices together. If any man at this late day is not satisfied as to that manner of man He is, let him look at the manner in which He is welcomed this morning. Peace, unselfish love, every human feeling, every kindly action, spring into life beneath His rearing feet. There is no thought of man so pure or so lofty, no deed so noble that has not owed its life to His coming. The civilization is the one where He has been best known and most sincerely worshipped. The dark corners of the earth, sunk in vice, sensuality and ignorance, are those where He is still unknown. Judge of our Friend by wha He has done for us, not by our often feeble

and false interpretation of Him. When, too, we celebrate Christmas this morning, it will be worth our while to ask ourselves if we really know this Friend who s coming, or if we are merely joining in the children on the street do who follow shouting behind a procession, of the purpose and aim of which they know nothing at all. When we provide our luxurious dinner or give our gifts to-day, knowing and earing nothing for the reason of the rejoicing, we day precisely the part of the caterer, who aly works to place the meats on the able, but cannot sit down with the guests or share in the zest of their finer pleasure. A good many of us, however, do understand and feel the meaning of that coming long ago of the Child who was born in a manger; feel it with quick beating hearts, perhaps, and wet eyes. We jog on the usual way every day in the year; but when Christmas comes its solemn joy wakes us up to a consciousness that we do believe in this Divine Teacher, just as the death of a friend startles us for a day or two into keener love for all other friends. Being in way interested in the subject. A writer in a that Christian spirit, we shall sincerely open our hearts to-day to this benign influence; we shall be good-humored and affectionate to wife and children; we shall hold out a helpful, brotherly hand to the poor about us. In a word we shall welcome Christ into our homes. Why not let Him stay there ? We have heard of a holy and hamble man of heart who went into a house to stay for an hour or two and remained always. "He fitted into our life so well we could not spare him to go away again," said his host. Does this great Teacher of unselfishness and noble deeds fit into our lives? Is this day the brightest and pleasantest of all the year? Why, then, should we spare Him to go away again? Why not make every day of the year Christmas?

The study of the growth of New-York has a great fascination for old residents who are also close obervers. A peculiarity worth noting is the fact that the complete change of character of one particular street or avenue does not affect materially the character of streets immediately adjacent. For instance, Fourteenth-et, from Brondway to Seventhave, has entirely changed in the last decade from a place exclusively of fashionable dwellings to one wholly of small shops and retail stores; yet Fifthave, in the immediate vicinity has not been changed in the slightest degree from the fashiomable home quarter it always was. In the same way the alterations of Twenty-third-st, have not influenced changes in Twenty-second or Twenty-fourth-sts., or others adjacent. The tendency of the broad streets which at every ten blocks' interval intersect the avenues, to become retail marts is also a marked characteristic of this city of strange and magic growth and of magnificent development. The changes of the next ten years premise to be still more startling, making should be dropped by the signals from any one | Harlem River in fact the geographical heart of the metropolis, practically uniting Brooklyn and Jersey

salary, but that his position as superintend- travel by paths somewhat definite. Their signals than by placing them in the charge of were trustfully opening their purple and white to the that it is late December. But then this is the fated year that we are leaving. And although the conjunction of the major planets in Taurus did not precipitate the final conflagration, as the astrologer predicted, we ought hardly to be surprised at a little dislocation and confusion among the seasons,

Mrs. Rose Terry Cooke's Christmas story, written for THE TEIBUNE and printed on the third page this morning, holds a gracious lesson for holiday time, It is a clever sketch, whose fidelity to nature will be recognized by all who have studied character among the rocks and arid pastures of New-England.

### PERSONAL,

Postmaster-General Howe has a farm near Green Bay, and is deeply interested in agricultural matters.

Mr. Horace Grav, the newly appointed Justice of the Supreme Couri, is more than six (set tall, and is stout in proportion. He is a bachelor,

Cheng Tsao Ju, the new Chinese Minister, is reported to have been for ten years superintendent of the arsenal at Shanghai. He knows arms and machinery thoroughly.

The citizens of Cleveland have contributed to the Garfield Monument Fund the sum of \$81,000. The Memorial Hospital Fund has and an addition of \$100 from Mr. Binine. "One of your great-grandchildren will be Presi-

dent then, Mr. Blaine," said General Arthur the other evening, apropos of a remark about the American blcentennial a hundred years hence. "Ah," re-lied Mr. Biaine, "I don't propose to wait that long," Minister Yoshida and his wife will not, it is said, remain permanently in Japan. They will leave

Washington next week, and expect to return some time next year. Madam: Yoshida is described as a delicate little woman, who looks more like a school-girl than the devoted mother of four chinires. Charles Sumner is quoted by Mr. C. H. Brainard. in The Washington Star, as saving of Mr. Wendell Phillips's conversation, that it was fuil of humorous and witty sayings. "And they sometimes crop out in his speeches," Sumner added, "but they never

do in mine. Did you ever see a joke in one of my speeches?" Mr. Brainard confessed that he never had seen one. "Of course you never did," said Sunner. "You might as well look for a joke in the book of Revelations." SYDNEY, N. S. W., Dec. 24,-The Hon, Sir Henry Parkes, Colonial Secretary, will start on a tour through America on the 29th inst, for the benefit of

#### GENERAL NOTES.

Professor S. Wells Williams, of Yale College, eived a dispatch from the interior of China 'educeday evening, which was sent the day before, of had thus for a journey of 19,000 miles. The Spirit of the Times, under the capable

literanty of Mr. Buck, while retaining all its old excel encles, has become more and better than a mere sporting newspaper. Its Christmas number, for instance, has an uncommonly clever contribution by Gall Hamilton, with others by Kate Field, Rose Terry Cooke, etc.

A new law has been projected to govern the mployment of children in manufactories through the Russian empire. The minimum age is fixed at twelve years, but the children already employed in such establishments are excepted from the operation of this clause,

The London Echo, which is protesting with haracteristic plainness of speech against capital punshment, quotes from the Corman papers the case of a raniway porter named Harbaum, who was released from prison on November 28, after cight years of confinement, and was dismissed " without a stain upon his character." dering a child with the fumes of sulphur. The evidence against him seemed to be perfect; the jury thought they had no alternative but to declare him guilty, in spite of his good character, and his impassioned protestations of mocence. Some benevolent and keen-witted persons, and during the eight years of his cruel martyrdam in prison, have been incessant in their efforts to get at the re facts of the case. They produced such a body of evidence at the last as to compel the authorities to institute a new trial, and the proofs were so convincing that the jury unhesitatingly declared Harbania inhocent. "Who," asia The Iche, "is to compensate the poor railway porter for the loss of cight good years of his life, or for the indescribable parass of an imprisonment as utterly undescribable parass of an imprisonment as utterly undescribed to a policy they would have produced if this imprecal man had been harriedly hung eight years ago!" The King of Siam's artistic nature is about

to be gratified by the receipt of an enormous table deco ration of plate glate glass, sixty-five feet in length, which The following description is given of this colossal orgaflowing, now crescent-like and circular, again lozeage ding a double cruciffs, but with modifications which respace between the arms being rounded so as to permit of either side, and the ends being also circular. On the projecting squares have been fixed tasteful epergues. A ruly subere, which is the characteristic feature of the stem of these energies, is reflected in the silvered gians senseth. The whole of the pieces are of this silvered plate gines, so that the flowers and other ornaments are reflected as in a clear lake. The outline of the decoration is marked in double lines by the upper and lower and there by pretty medallions bearing the crest of the a circle which is bordered by elephants' teeth, and from which spring the rays of the sun. The surface of the barder is broken up into little square facets by bevelling

# BITS OF CRITICISM.

ME. SWINBURNE'S DRAMA.-It is pleasant to bring with it the chought of Mr. Swinburne. Dramatic, in the sense of being capable of stage representation, "Mary Supart" is not. No quick, passionate refort makes from heart to the the specific are constally reflective and exhaustive, and take semetimes the shape of disquisitions. Nor can it be said that character is displayed by means of dialogue. Mary herself shows what

BEATRICE'S BIRTHDAY BOOK .- The worst quality that the designs possess, as it is one without the excuse that can be allowed for technical deficiencies, is a certain lack of artistic refinement visible throughout. The book, in short, is not that of an artist, and there was no reason why it should be. Ant then also, there was no reason for its publication. It shows facility of a common-place kind, and the results of good, common-place is show, in our opinion, any power of design, properly to salbed, any knowledge of the rules or of the practice of decorative act, or any ability of technique, above the or-dinary standard. The Princess Beatrice, in fact, has pro-duced a book such as might have been produced by twenty thousand other young English Indies—a book in which nothing is specially remarkable, except the signa-ture on its title-page (The Speciator.

SPIELBAGEN'S NOVELS.—Spielbagen's chief characteristic is, however, power, though it may be objected to him that he often lays our ins colors too strong, and crudely. We should formerly hove attributed almost the converse quality to him of that which Mr. Ruskin attributes to George Sand. "Her writings are often immoral, but always beautiful." Of Spielbagen, on the in diributes to George Saud. Her willings are othe immoral, but always beautiful." Of Sphelhagen, on the contrary, we might say, "his writings are generally moral, but often crade and unlovely." But his later books have a more decidedly immoral tendency. His novelettes are treer from this charge, but then, sied they lack the strength of his longer works, their coloring is paice, their analysis of character and ractive thanes, and he does not attempt in them to depict in the same way the consuming force of love and passion, how to study the several difficult social problems which have caused such an unwholesome fermentation in Berthi society.—[The Spectator.

KINGSLEY THE POET .- Only in one direction is